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Beck Hudson........ News Editor

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Mr. Vaughan,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the people of Appomattox, Virginia for helping make our recent Blood visit the success that it was. We didn't reach our goal, but I feel that it was largely due to the sickness resulting from the "Swineflu shots" that the people had taken. Our goal for the January visit will have to be 144 pints in order to make up the loss that we have incurred from the last two visits.

I would like to thank the Blood donors themselves, along with the Junior Women's Club that always does a very good job; the DE ICT at the High School. A special thanks to the Xi Gamma Tau Exemplar Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority for handling the canteen for us this time.

We also appreciate the Liberty Baptist Church for allowing us to use their facilities and also to Mr. Watts, who cleans up the building after we leave.

We appreciate the Business men in town that contributes to the Canteen in the way of supplies. We certainly would not want to leave the Pepsi Cola Co. out because they have been so faithful over the years.

In closing, let me say that we appreciate all the Volunteers, and again without the donors, the day would be a total loss. We would certainly not think of closing this letter without expressing our sincere thanks to the TIMES-VIRGINIAN and the entire staff that helps in so many ways.

I almost forgot the Nurses. I am sure that someone will say, he left me out. Please accept my personal thanks and if I have over looked anyone, it certainly was not intentional.

Most sincerely yours
Rev. Earnie W. Lucas
Chairman
Bloodmobile,
Appomattox, Virginia

Dec. 3, 1976

To My Appomattox Friends:

It's Christmas and a special time of year when we celebrate **the birth of our Saviour. And,** unfortunately, because of our society today it must also be a time that we should take time to think about the millions of unborn babies being needlessly destroyed.

This season is so full of joy that I can't bring myself to tell you the usual horrible atrocities of the unborn, but in the same respect I can't let it pass without asking for your prayers and letters to our President, Representatives and Senators.

Yes, abortion is legal, but it is still wrong. Everytime a baby is aborted it proves man has lost faith in God, but everytime a baby is born it proves God has not lost faith in Humanity.

Let us pray for the children who are never given the opportunity to know the joys and warmth of the celebration and love of the Baby Jesus.

Merry Christmas,
Mrs. Johnny Wright
Norfolk, Va.

TOPS News

Barbara Mayberry, Reporter

Good news, Potato Lovers. Recently I read a very surprising article in the Reader's Digest that laid to rest all the myths that have plagued the lowly potato all down through the ages. According to this very interesting article, a person would have to eat 11 pounds of potatoes to gain one pound! It's not the potato that is fattening, but all that melted butter, sour cream, sauces, or frying oil that adds those unsightly bulges. In fact the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture reports that the potato is such a perfect food that a person could have a balanced diet if he only ate potatoes and drank milk! Of course, it would also be a very boring diet, but potatoes are a nutritional, flavorful and low calorie dish that compliments any meal if prepared properly, even for the diet conscious!

This week, Leader Gay opened our meeting and then led the members in touching their toes ten times, amid a few groans and much laughter! Thelma Knight our co-leader, won the prize for the best weight loss for the week.

Our points contest has ended, and the winner is Thelma Knight, with Mary Alice Gowin being the runner-up. Congratulations, Thelma and Mary Alice, we hope you enjoy your prizes!

For our program, Gay read an article, **25 Ways to Choose Food That Gives You the Best Value For Your Money.** One point I agreed with most is that you shouldn't buy marked-down bruised and moldly fruits and vegetables. They are so unattractive that you may decide to discard them after all, and if you do use them, the quality, unpleasant flavor, and texture, and odor may be very disappointing.

A discussion period followed the article and members exchanged helpful tips.

TOPS TIPS- Eat your meal slowly. It takes your slowpoke brain at least twenty minutes to get the message that you have eaten enough to satisfy your urge to eat!

TOPS SPOT'LITE this week is on co-leader, Mrs. Thelma Knight, who is really TOPS!

TOPS [Take Off Pounds Sensibly] meets each Monday night at the Old Evergreen School, with weigh in beginning at 6:30 and the program starting at 7 p.m.

In the spirit of the holidays, all our TOPS members wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy, and much lighter New Year!

4-H Share-The-Fun Held

The 1976 Appomattox 4-H Share-the-Fun Program was held last Thursday evening at the Appomattox County High School Auditorium. Twenty-one acts were presented in the Junior Division with nine acts in the Senior Contest.

Top winners in the Senior Division were Cynthia Hix and Joe Ford who performed a tribute to the roaring 20's era with their "Return to the Cabaret." They were accompanied by Polly Carter. Cynthia, Joe and Polly will represent Appomattox in a District Share-the-Fun program in April. They also received a sholarship to State 4-H Congress in June. the sholarship is provided by the Virginia Association of Electric Cooperatives.

First runner up in the senior group was Dean Page who sang "Leaving on a Jet Plane" and "On My Way Home" while accompaning himself on the guitar. Second runner up was Vicki Glover who performed a ventriloquist act called "Sidney".

Top winners in the Junior Division were Audrey and Dana Moore who performed on original skit called "Andy Lou and Mary Lou Go to the City." Audrey and Dana were presented a 4-H Camp Scholarship by Mrs. Glenna Hix representing the Appomatox County Farm Bureau Women's Committee. They will also represent Appomattox at an area program in Rustburg during May of 1977. Audrey and Dana are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Moore.

First runner up in the Junior Division was Laura Walton who played "Old Joe Clark's Boogie" on the piano. Second runner up was Sally Coleman who performed a tap dance.

Other blue ribbon winners were:Kelly Paulette who performed "Boogie Blues" on the piano; Laurie Cowan who performed a dramatic skit entitled "My Friend Thelma"; Dana White and Paula Hyche who presented a pantomine called "Raggedy Ann and Andy"; Mike McCoy who played the piano and sang "Angels Watching Over Me"; Sandy Walton who roller skated to "Nadia's Theme"; Susan Eye who presented an original poetry recitation; Beverly Coleman who performed a ballet dance; James Beaty who played a piano selection entitled "Liberace in Concert"; and Suzette and Leslie Ranson who performed "Sounds of Christmas" on the piano.

Red award winners in the Junior Division were: Jane Guill and Donna Robinson who performed a jazz dance; Alfreda Wheeler, Tony Bailey and Herman Wheeler who sang "God Bless America"; Suzanne Wight and Jack Williams who performed a skit called "Kid Folk News"; June Jenkins who performed a baton twirling act; Leroy Morgan, Todd Pickett, Malcolm Miller, and Barry Hamlett who presented a skit called "Cootie Man"; Susan Shorter who performed "The Roaring 20's"; Jennifer Inge, Patty Roach, Darlene Smith and Mitzi Baldwin who presented a skit called "Commercial Time"; Dean Jamerson who recited "The Day I Didn't Work"; and Billy Caldwell, Kenneth McClenny, Tom Cobb and Mark Embrey who performed a skit called "The Robot Inventors."

In the Senior Division blue awards were presented to Mary Dyess who played the selection "Bach" and Laura's Theme" on the piano; Laurie McLean and Rhonda Nash who sang melodies from the Sound of Music; Gaye Phelps who performed "Moods of the Harmonica," Bill Vaughan who presented a "Magic Show"; Tamara Nash who played the piano and sang "My Favorite Things" and Willis Fleshman who recited "Life (Live Now or Never)".

Judges in the Junior Division were Mr. Al F. Johnson, Mrs. Hope Ferguson and Miss Teresa Quesenberry. Senior Division judges were Mrs. Roberta Womack, Mr. Russell Thomas and Mr. Lloyd Richardson.

Mrs. Cindy Guill Thomas served as program coordinator and Terri Nash and Willis Fleshman served as emcees. Decorations and back stage crew were arranged by the Mighty Four 4-H Club with Susan Shorter, Cheryl Walton, Rhonda Nash, Susan Parris, Terri Robinson, Laurie McLean Allen Smith, Steve Conner, Tony Ferguson, Ernie Chenault Steve Mayberry, David Caldwell, Kathy Lewis and Dana White assisting.

VA Questions And Answers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q - I have used my 36 months of educational entitlement but I would like to go to graduate school. Do I have any entitlement left?

A - Effective Oct. 1, 1976, eligible veterans who have served 18 continuous months or more on active duty after January 31, 1955, became entitled to 45 months of educational assistance if they have not been separated for more than 10 years.

Q - If I get a release of liability for a home that I purchase on a VA guaranteed loan, will I be eligible for another VA loan?

A - No. A release of liability protects a veteran if the buyer defaults on his payments. The only way to reestablish eligibility to purchase a home is to pay the loan off or have another veteran substitute his entitlement on the loan.

Q - I am enrolled in vocational rehabilitation training. I have dental problems which cause illness that interferes with my schooling. Am I eligible for treatment by the VA?

A - A veteran who is pursuing vocational rehabilitation training is entitled to a dental examination by the VA. Extent of dental treatment will be determined at that time.

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The Sunday School Lesson

COMMENTS BY HERBERT C. BRADSHAW

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER19, 1976

The Coming Celebrated

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. John 1:14

The greatest event in human history is the Incarnation of the Son of God in the man Jesus. Christmas celebrates His coming, as Easter celebrates His resurrection and victory over death and sin. Two gospels, Matthew and Luke, relate His coming through the process of human birth as a baby. As might be expected of a physician, Luke wrote specifically of Jesus' birth, the setting and the circumstances. But as might not be expected of a man of science, Luke also relates the unusual, the supernatural happenings in connection with His birth: the announcement of His impending birth to Mary by the archangel Gabriel, the announcement that He had been born by an angel, accompanied by a hymn of praise sung by a multitude of angels, to shepherds who were tending their flocks in pastures near Bethlehem.

A third gospel, John, relates the coming of the Son in its theological meaning: the Word, whom John identifies not only as being with God but also as God, became flesh, that is, God came in human form, and dwelt among men. There was nothing superficial about His humanity, for He was truly human as well as truly divine, living as a man, radiating a glory which could only be divine.

Such a coming called for a celebration, but it was not the sort of celebration the world would expect. The announcement of Jesus' birth was not made to the most powerful person in the world of that day, the Emperor Caesar Augustus, and to his court in Rome. Nor was it made to the universities of Athens and Alexandria and Tarsus. Nor was it made in the Temple at Jerusalem where faithful Jews, expectantly awaiting Messiah, would be worshipping, nor to the Sanhedrin, the assemblage of Jewish lay and ecclesiastical leadership.

God's own messengers brought the announcement to shepherds, men at work even in in the nighttime. The appearance of an angel, with the attendant glory of the Lord brightening the night around them, was a fearsome sight.But the message was one of reassurance. Their fears calmed, the shepherds satisfied their curiosity by going to Bethlehem and finding the Infant whose birth was announced by angels in the humblest of places, a stable, with the feedbox His cradle. What a contrast! There is contrast, too, in the identity of the Baby and the circumstances of His birth. A royal prince of this world would have been born in a lusurious bedroom, the mother attended by the most skilled midwives of the realm. Jesus was born in a stable. Luke indicates that Mary was unattended, for he relates that she dressed Jesus in His infant clothes when He was born. The shepherds found the Baby and spread the news. The mother remembered all these happenings and reflected on them through the coming years.

We should not overlook Joseph. instead of breaking his engagement to Mary after learning that she was expecting a child,he gave her the tenderest love and best care he could, taking her with him to Bethlehem, when he went there to list his property for Roman taxation. We may speculate on whether Joseph was a native of Bethlehem, who moved to Nazareth in Galilee where there might have been better opportunities for his work as a carpenter, but we do not know. Nor do we know whether Mary or her parents had gone to Nazareth from Judea; she had relatives, Elizabeth, for example, living in Judea.

Biblical scholarship has not been able to fix precisely the date of Jesus' birth. The calculation by which we distinguish between B.C. and A. D., made by the monk Dionysius Exiguus in the sixth century, A.D., is generally regarded to be somewhat in error. Scholars have assigned dates from 2 B.C. to 7 B.C. for the year of Jesus' birth, citing circumstances to support their varying conclusions.

Luke' dating, the enrollment ordered by Augustus when Quirinius was governor of Syria, is indefinite, for these enrollments, or tax listings, often lasted for years. Luke is showing, not so much the date of Jesus' birth, as how God worked in history, even among those who did not know and worship Him, to bring His purposes to pass. God used an order from the pagan Roman emperor as the means for bringing Mary to Bethlehem, the city of David, for the birth of the Savior, 'great David's greater Son.'

The Savior's birth still calls for celebration. As the angels sang their hymn of praise so long ago, we today in church and by fireside, in the streets and in our hearts sing the carols of praise celebrating God's coming to earth as man for the redemption of men and women.

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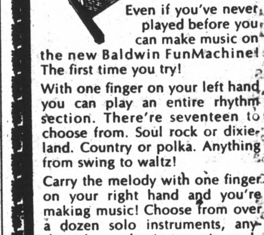

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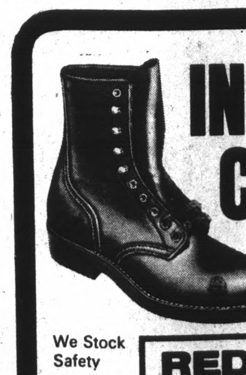

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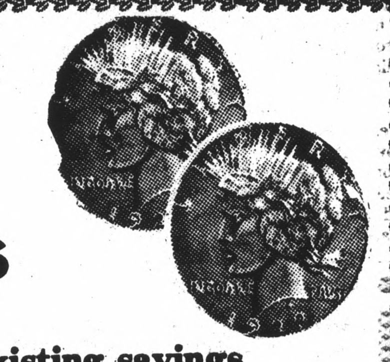

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GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

Christmas Cooking Hints and Helps

Roasting -- the time - honored way to prepare the Christmas turkey -- can be applied to all types of poultry, and at all times of the year.

Many times when roasting poultry the homemaker likes to add her favorite stuffing. These are certain precautions that one must take in order to safely prepare poultry and stuffing for the family.

Suffing may be prepared ahead but it **should not** be put into the bird until just before roasting.

Packaged dry stuffing mixes make a useful base. Add an individual touch with cooked sausage, meat, chopped chestnuts or other nuts. You may also use the cooked giblets of the bird, chopped raw oysters, or soaked and chopped dried fruit.

When spooning stuffing into turkey or hen be sure to allow for expansion, filling the neck as well as the body cavity. Sew or skewer the skin firmly into place over the openings.

If your family likes stuffing so much that the bird won't hold enough, bake an extra pan of it. Moisten with some gravy, cover, and place in oven during the last 45 minutes of roasting time.

A one-pound loaf of bread makes eight cups large, soft crumbs. Allow 1 cup prepared stuffing for each pound of dressed weight of bird.

Remove leftover stuffing before storing the bird. Refrigerate separately and use promptly. This is a **must** if you want to protect your family from possible food poisoning.

The following timetable will be helpful as you prepare your favorite poultry product for the holiday season:

Timetable for Roasting Poultry

Oven Temperature Moderately Slow [325°F]

(Note: Since poultry varies greatly in size, conformation and fat, cooking time can only be approximate.)

Poultry	D'd Wght [In Lbs.]	C. Time [In Hrs.]
	4-5	2-2½
Turkey	5-6	2½-3
	7-12	3½-4½
	13-18	4½-5½
Duck	4-6	2-2½
Goose	10-12	3½-4½

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Corn Bread Dressing

6 cups crumbled corn bread
4 cups loaf bread or biscuits, crumbled
1 cup chopped celery
¾ cup finely chopped onion
1 tbsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups broth, or more as needed
¼ tsp. marjoram or sage(optional)
½ cup butter (or chicken fat, skimmed from broth)

Cook on low heat, onion and celery in 1 cup liquid until tender. Add to the crumbs and seasonings. Stir in beaten eggs and enough broth or hot water to make a moist dressing. Pour into greased pan and bake 400 degrees F. for about 30 minutes or until nicely brown. Don't overcook. Dressing is better if moist. Serve in squares with turkey or chicken.

County Receives $11,237 Taxes From VEPCO

Virginia Electric and Power Company has presented checks totaling $375,053 to county and city treasurers in Vepco's Southern Division in Payment of 1976 real estate and personal property taxes.

The largest check of $54,176 went to Halifax County Treasurer, W. C. Anderson, Jr. Other counties receiving checks included: Mecklenburg, $53,601; Campbell, $33,803; Pittsylvania, $24,531; Prince Edward, $31,401; Nottoway, $18,738; Brunswick, $17,699; Lunenburg, $16,400; Greensville, $18,180; Buckingham, $19,078; Charlotte, $13,930; Cumberland, $19,520; Appomattox, $11,237;- Amelia, $7,297; and Bedford, $1,843.

Cities receiving checks included: South Boston, $25,736 and Emporia, $7,883.

Vepco's Virginia state and local taxes for 1976 are estimated to total $65,800,000, an increase of $14,427,000 or 28.1 per cent over 1975. This includes $19,990,000 for property taxes and $45,385,000 for tax on gross receipts.

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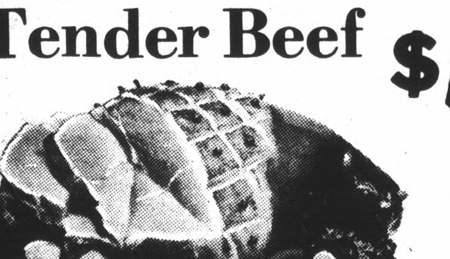

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